

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-07 INT-05 AID-05 /099 W
-----118543 131037Z /21/73

R 101218Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 802
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O., TAGS, AND SUBJ: ADDED)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IN, PK
SUBJECT: ATMOSPHERICS ON THE EVE OF AGHA SHAHI'S VISIT

1. PAKISTAN ZIA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER AGHA SHAHI BEGINS HIS
4-DAY VISIT TO INDIA TODAY. ALTHOUGH PRESS TREATMENT OF THE
FORTHCOMING VISIT HAS BEEN LOW-KEY, A NUMBER OF RECENT
NEWSPAPER ITEMS COULD MAR SOMEWHAT THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH
IT TAKES PLACE.

2. FOR THE LAST WEEK, MRS. GANDHI HAS BEEN HITTING HARD
AT THE JANATA GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ALLEGED WILLINGNESS "TO
GIVE ANYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH ANY COUNTRY
NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS TO THE NATION". SHE HAS ALSO
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ALLEGED THAT NOT ALL THE TREATIES SIGNED BY THE JANATA
GOVERNMENT ARE IN KEEPING WITH INDIA'S INTERESTS. TWO
DAYS AGO, FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE HIT BACK, CALLING
ON MRS. GANDHI TO EXPLAIN TO THE PUBLIC THE "SECRET
PACT" SHE MADE WITH EX-PM BHUTTO IN 1972, WHEN THE
SIMLA TALKS WERE SEEMINGLY DEADLOCKED. VAJPAYEE
SUGGESTED THAT ONE RESULT OF THIS "SECRET PACT" WAS

THE SIMLA AGREEMENT'S LISTING OF KASHMIR AS AN ISSUE IN INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS, EVEN THOUGH THE GOI HAD PREVIOUSLY DENIED PAKISTAN'S LEGAL RIGHT TO RAISE THE SUBJECT. DESPITE INDIA'S HOLDING ALL THE TRUMPS IN SIMLA, MRS. GANDHI, ACCORDING TO VAJPAYEE, BARGAINED AWAY WHAT INDIA'S SOLDIERS HAD WON ON THE BATTLEFIELD. HE CHALLENGED MRS. GANDHI TO CITE ONE INSTANCE IN WHICH THE JANATA GOVERNMENT HAD COMPROMISED THE INTERESTS OF INDIA. WHILE ADMITTING THAT HE HAD IN THE PAST OPPOSED THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, VAJPAYEE NEVERTHELESS REAFFIRMED THE JANATA GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD THE ACCORD.

3. MEANWHILE, JAMMU AND KASHMIR CHIEF MINISTER SHEIKH ABDULLAH HAS ASKED THE GOI TO APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO THE INDUS WATERS TREATY BOARD SO THAT THE STATE MIGHT HAVE A SAY IN ANY AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN CONCERNING THE SALAL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF MINISTER, VAJPAYEE HAS THE REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE SHEIK HAS ALSO TOLD THE J & K ASSEMBLY THAT THE STATE'S PLAN TO BUILD A DAM AT WULOR LAKE MIGHT BE RAISED WITH AGHA SHAHI.

4. MANY OBSERVERS HERE EXPECT AGHA SHAHI TO EXPRESS TO INDIA'S LEADERS HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN AT THE GOI'S PLAN TO ACQUIRE A DPSA. "HINDU" COLUMNIST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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G.K. REDDY RECENTLY REPORTED THAT PAKISTAN WAS MOUNTING A DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS INTO THE SUBCONTINENT. REDDY ALSO REFERRED TO US HINTS THAT IT WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO REFUSE PAKISTANI REQUESTS FOR A-7S IF INDIA WERE TO ACQUIRE A DPSA. REDDY TOLD US THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAD PASSED THIS WORD TO AMBASSADOR PALKHIVALA. GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL SITUATION, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE05540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780154-0993, D780169-0658
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780472/aaaacjmo.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c85620b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3015884
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATMOSPHERICS ON THE EVE OF AGHA SHAHI'S VISIT
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, OVIP, IN, PK, JANATA PARTY, (GANDHI, INDIRA), (VAJPAYEE, ATAL BIHARI), (SHAHI, AGHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c85620b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014